MEETING SUMMARY

VA Toxics Release Inventory
Stakeholders Meeting
Oct. 15, 2003
1:00 PM - 4:00 PM
VA DEQ, 629 E. Main Street, Richmond
1st Floor Conference Room

The purpose of the stakeholders meeting was to solicit public participation and comments on areas of improvement or enhancement on the annual publication of VA Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) Summary Report. Participants were asked to consider and give input on the readability (format/flow) of the information in the report, data presentation, report review process, publication timeliness, report/data accessibility, and any additional or deletion of information in the report. The success of being able to collect good data and getting useful information out is predicated on our ability to enhance those areas.

The VA TRI Stakeholders Meeting began at 1:00 PM and ended around 3:00 PM. Dona Huang, VA TRI Coordinator conducted the two-hour meeting. Eight participants attended the meeting representing TRI facilities, environmental advocacy groups, wastewater treatment industries, DEQ representatives, and a university researcher. Because it was a small group, the discussion process was informal, and the participants were free to interject/ask questions at any point during the presentation.

A PowerPoint presentation and several handouts guided the discussion (available on the SARA Title III web site: www.deq.state.va.us/sara3/313.html). The presentation started with a brief introduction on the responsibilities of VA TRI program and the legislative mandates for the implementation of the program. The following matrix represents the summary of discussion on the topics posed by the meeting:

TOPICS	DISCUSSION
TRI Usage	• Like to see how TRI can complement water discharge information, especially water discharge information to the Chesapeake Bay (whether it is direct discharge to the water body or transfer to a POTW for subsequent discharge) • Like to know what information one can look for in a TRI data/report so to use it wisely when talking to industries about water protection. • Portability - for geographic information system (GIS) usage
Readability: Existing Report Format and Proposed Changes	• Proposed changes: moderate changes were suggested, by creating an Executive Summary, moving or segregating existing data presentation to enhance flow and readability, and perhaps adding new appendicies to include ranking by facilities, chemicals, etc. No additional suggestions from the participants.
Clarity and Utility: Existing Data	• Are there data element and data presentation that can be modified or presented differently to enhance clarity and utility of the information?

Presentation and Descriptive Approach	• Suggestions to include description on top ten chemicals released to the environment, such as source of production, environmental and health effects, physical characteristics of the chemical, etc., similar to how PBT chemicals were presented in the VA TRI report. • Existing top-ten facility ranking presentation is sufficient.
Stakeholders Review: Improving Stakeholders Involvement	• Continue with existing outreach effort. • Enhance DEQ SARA Title III Web site attractiveness with icons or eye-catching tag line which public can readily identifies.
Timeliness	• No comments received.
Accessibility	• Portability - GIS and other database or spreadsheet compatibility. • Enhance DEQ SARA Title III Web site attractiveness with icons or eye-catching tag line/new headline which public can readily identifies.
Suggestions for Additions or Deletion to the Report	• Suggestions to include description on top ten chemicals released to the environment such as source of production, environmental and health effects, physical characteristics of the chemical, etc., similar to how PBT chemicals were presented in the VA TRI report.

The meeting ended by asking participants to turn in or mail in the report enhancement questionnaire handed out at the beginning of the meeting. Participants were encouraged to inform their colleagues to go on the VA DEQ SARA Title III web site to download the questionnaire, proposed changes, and the presentation power point slides. The participants were reminded that the deadline for comments on the VA TRI Stakeholders was on Oct. 30, 2003.